

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it... Psalm 127:1a

Ministry Opportunity:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

Announcements:

Thank you for your prayers this week while we hosted an exploratory meeting on the growing problem of homelessness here in Pottstown. The problem is worsening, and there is terrible need growing. We hope this is a first step toward a helping those who are affected by this, and as we progress into this ministry, we need continual prayer.

You are invited to the next emergency meeting this Thursday, the 14th at 1:00 pm for planning our Next Steps in meeting this test. Thanks again!

Your Prayer Reminders:

We are always collecting items for the Women's Center, and this Monday, we will be assembling these care bags through the Pottstown Cluster of Churches and the Salvation Army. If you can, please bring small soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, washrags, towels, lotions, disposable razors, large plastic zip lock bags, etc.

Please continue to remember Melvin in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for Leona Zupko who has returned home from the hospital after colon surgery, but will need additional procedures; for Randy as he begins a new job; and for Lori's two son;

Your Prayer Notes:

Next week... isaiah 12.2-6, zephaniah 3.14-20,
luke 3.7-18, & philippians 4.4-7

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"He restores my soul . . .
surely goodness and mercy will follow me"



confirming the gospel
rulers, governors & straight paths
~ marginal peace

Advent 2

The Week of December 10th, 2006

"...that your love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight to help you to
determine what is best, so that in the day of
Christ you may be pure and blameless, having
produced the harvest of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ"
Phil. 1. 9b-11a

Worship

baruch 5.1-9

luke 1.68-79

malachi 3.1-4

luke 3.1-6

philippians 1.3-11

Benediction

Our Mission

To pursue God's heart and mission of building
a worshipful faith community within the Pottstown area, through good
works and home churches; recognizing Jesus as King of the universe,
and worshiping Him privately and publicly because He is worthy.



[Worship]

luke 1.68-79

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

"1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years."
mal. 3.1-4

Also see philippians 1.3-11

[The Scripture]

luke 3.1-6

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



[Think & Pray...]

Meditation: *"It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel."* Phil. 1.7

Reflection: The second Sunday of Advent is about preparing the way for Jesus - with Malachi's strong criticism, Zechariah's promise that God will provide salvation, and John the Baptist's passion for redirection to God's Way.

John's location in the wilderness is a stark contrast to the Jewish ruling elite's (and Malachi's) focus on the temple. Considering parallel passages to Luke 3.4-6 in Mark's gospel (1.1-5), perhaps we can gain a realization that making straight paths, through repentance, is truly the only road that leads to PEACE—that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God"— a Gospel Confirmation.

Consider: John's message of Peace with God through repentance from a corrupt temple system, bypassed the ruling religious and political elite, embodying God's "Word" in the margins of society, pointing the way to the Gospel King of Peace. Might this still be the calling of god's prophetic voice through His people today? Imagine, if we truly embrace being instruments—like John—announcing that PEACE?

